

CLAIM LISTING

Claim 1 (canceled)
Claim 2 (canceled)
Claim 3 (canceled)
Claim 4 (canceled)
Claim 5 (canceled)
Claim 6 (canceled)
Claim 7 (canceled)
Claim 8 (canceled)
Claim 9 (canceled)
Claim 10 (canceled)
Claim 11 (canceled)
Claim 12 (canceled)
Claim 13 (canceled)
Claim 14 (canceled)
Claim 15 (canceled)
Claim 16 (canceled)
Claim 17 (canceled)
Claim 18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (previously amended) 19. A method for curing a dental material comprising the steps of:

obtaining a curing light that includes
a power supply,
a light emitting diode (LED), said power supply being in electrical connection with said LED so that said power supply may provide electrical current to said LED, and
an elongate heat sink, said heat sink serving to draw heat away from said LED,
said elongate heat sink having a longitudinal axis,
said power supply providing electrical current to said LED in a pulsed input format of alternating periods of generally constant intensity current input to said LED followed by periods of rest with no current input to said LED,
using said pulsed electrical input to said LED to produce a light output from said LED that is in continuous wave format rather than pulsed,
said light output including light of a wavelength λ ,
said light output departing from said curing light in a direction that has an angular orientation of from about 30 to about 150 degrees with respect to said heat sink longitudinal axis,
applying said light output to a dental material to be light cured, said dental material to be cured being curable upon exposure to light of a wavelength λ ,
maintaining exposure of said dental material to be cured to said light output for a period of time sufficient to initiate curing of said dental material to be cured, and
permitting said dental material to be cured to cure;
wherein a benefit of providing pulsed electrical input to said LED is avoidance of heat buildup in said LED which would decrease intensity of light output from said LED.

Claim 20 (cancelled)

Claim 21 (previously presented) 21. A method as recited in claim 19 wherein said current is in the range of from about 25 millamps to about 2 amps.

Claim 22 (previously presented) 22. A method as recited in claim 19 wherein said current is in the range of from about 350 milliamps to about 1.2 amps.

Claim 23 (previously presented) 23. A method as recited in claim 19 wherein said current is more than about 100 milliamps.

Claim 24 (previously amended) 24. A method for curing a dental material comprising the steps of:

obtaining a curing light that includes a light emitting diode (LED),
said LED being mounted to an elongate heat sink,
said elongate heat sink having a longitudinal axis,
providing electrical current to said LED in a pulsed input format of alternating periods of generally constant intensity current input to said LED followed by periods of rest with no current input to said LED,
using said pulsed electrical input to said LED to produce a light output from said LED that is in continuous wave format rather than pulsed,
said light output including light of a wavelength λ ,
said light output departing from said LED in a direction that has an angular orientation of from about 30 to about 150 degrees with respect to said heat sink longitudinal axis,
applying said light output to a dental material to be light cured, said dental material to be cured being curable upon exposure to light of a wavelength λ ,
maintaining exposure of said dental material to be cured to said light output for a period of time sufficient to initiate curing of said dental material to be cured, and
permitting said dental material to be cured to cure;
wherein a benefit of providing pulsed electrical input to said LED is avoidance of heat buildup in said LED which would decrease intensity of light output from said LED.

Claim 25 (previously presented) 25. A method as recited in claim 24 wherein said current is more than about 100 milliamps.

Claim 26 (previously presented) 26. A method as recited in claim 24 wherein said current is in the range of from about 25 milliamps to about 2 amps.

Claim 27 (previously presented) 27. A method as recited in claim 24 wherein said current is in the range of from about 350 milliamps to about 1.2 amps.